

3-18-1860

Letter from Sarah Whitney, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1860 March 18

Sarah Whitney

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Recommended Citation

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weary winter & little Maggie
still feels the effect of scarlet
fever.

Two P.M. A moment before father's de-
parture (you know how hurried) I must
take to answer Mr. Queen's to Carrie respec-
ting myself as she was too tired last
evening to write. I fear (probably through
my own words) that you have had
an exaggerated idea of my suffering.
I did suffer some pain for 2 or 3
weeks but never so severe that it seem-
ed unbearable. Had it been any where
else, I should not have taken an opiate
to remove it - Often have I had more
pain without thought of medicine.

Anxiety respecting the result made me
constantly thoughtful of the Doctor's sugges-
tions & true to his advice - The protracted
season of recovery is what he predicted,
& so I am never discouraged though
sometimes I am a little weary of
it & if I have vented my weariness
in impatient utterances to you dearest
forgive me & I will not do so again.
Indeed I think there will be no fur-
ther cause for them. I am gaining. The
fine weather & house cleaning will
furnish occupation that will divert
my mind from my own ailments.

Father is going

Adie G. Ford

Sunday Feb 18th '60

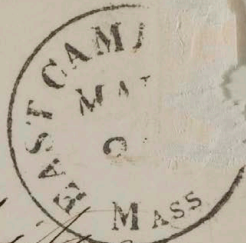
I carelessly sent off my last let-
ter without the \$1 Motherell & on the back
& so my dear Anne I have an excuse
if you be wanting for writing another
to day, if my own saddings & visitors at
home don't interfere. 3 calls & house-
hold duties have consumed the morning.
& now I await the family's return to
Miner - You wld like to have heard
the birds in Belmont this morn'g - "Happy
Valley" & all the space between there
& here was alive with them. This is the
4th day of "weather breeders" & the world
generally rejoices. I celebrate them all
by some expedition. Fri. I went to E. G.
& Sat to W. P. where I saw Marion & Ed.
Porter - The latter has come home con-
sumptively inclined if not in a deep seated
consumption. He is a pleasant, gentle-
manly fellow, bearing to my eye no trace
of the degradation to which times past
I suppose he has fallen. He is very
weak & very happy to be at home in
spite of the bitter winds wh. here greet
him, to wh. he was advised to come by his
physician in Florida when he has been some
months. Mr. Lambert looks & seems better than
he did early in the winter. If between drives
more into society I think it wld be well for

him. Ch's Carrol & wife & Anna
called yesterday to see yr works, having
heard before they reached here, that
I, the only one to whom they owed a call,
was absent - but they found the works
& me too - so I can report their satis-
faction - particularly at the inspection
of "Bee-bee", Father & Chancery. Mother's
likeness has to grow into the Spectator's
favor. I don't know whether I told you
how John Lambert showed his unlikeliness
to the rest of the world - Of Father's bust
he inquired if it were Geo Washington -
but Mother's he recognised at once as a
striking likeness. I am glad the baby
is to be exhibited in N.Y. & glad to hear
Mr B's favorable criticism. I expect to
hear more. We are all delighted with
yr proposition to work in Belmont & hope
that the "3 months" may be profitably length-
ened into 6 or more. Where shall the
Studio be & how? If on Edward's land, I sug-
gest that it may be made cheaply orna-
mental in somewhat of the style of
Pellington hill depot with its pillars for
vases - You at least need not then style
it an "unnecessary" though the ignorant
outside barbarian might.

I am glad for you that Fidelia is so soon
going to P. & glad for her that she is to find
you there - but my heart is heavy for the
poor child. I needn't fear her a day or two
since such a sad note, I know not how

to reply to it. It is strange that I,
so weak to bear sorrow, to whom indeed
real sorrow has scarce ever come but through
my own ill controlled passions should ever
dare to offer sympathy & counsel to another,
& stranger still that my words should be
accepted & desired - Fast as they are
they come from my heart & are so far true,
but so little have they affected my own
life their utterance seems almost a false-
hood &

The sun is about set on Mon eve & I
snatch the only minute the day has
given me for writing - The Robbins
& Sachsis &pton have just departed -
& before that such a day of dirt
& labor I have had - Every thing
is out of the parlors but the furni-
tures & looking glass & they await
stronger winds than mine - The
mason comes tomorrow - painters
next day - so there is promise of
an early spring cleaning - On my
way to the village this P.M. for a woman
to help tomorrow, we met Mary L. with
her tribute of flowers - from the depot
came the box of maple sugar & near
Mrs Twitchell's loving words - to you
she sends best love - Mrs Dr P. is feeble
from over exertion & anxiety during the



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